

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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SUBJECT	1. Movement of North Korean V Corps 2. Description of 22 and 25 Brigades, V Corps	DATE DISTR.	19 February 1953
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1. By mid-September 1952 the V Corps, which had been stationed in the Hamhung area since 3 March 1952, had moved to Sin'gosan¹ (N 38-52, E 127-25) (CU-6303) via Kowon (N 39-26, E 127-15) (CU-4966), Munch'on (N 39-17, E 127-17) (CU-5249), Togwon (N 39-10, E 127-22), Wonsan, and Anbyon (N 39-03, E 127-31) (CU-7223). The V Corps began moving south on 13 August 1952. Troops of the Corps marched at night, rested during the day. A distance of one kilometer was kept between battalions and 300 meters between companies. On winding mountain roads, reconnaissance unit members were posted along the roads at intervals of 100 meters, and on ordinary roads at intervals of 500 to 1,000 meters. Approximately 50 Soviet GAZ trucks hauled all heavy weapons. Artillery units moved about four or five days ahead of the main unit. The V Corps Reconnaissance Unit changed its name to the III Corps Reconnaissance Unit for security reasons and moved via Marhwi-ri (N 38-37, E 127-59) to Ip'o-ri (N 38-26, E 128-07) (DT-2354), near the 45 Division, III Corps.²
2. In late October 1952 the V Corps Headquarters was at CU-448785 near Sangsan-ni (N 39-23, E 127-11) and at CU-435768, near Namsongmal (N 39-32, E 127-11) (CU-4477).³ Between 40 to 50 officers and 300 enlisted men were at the headquarters. Forty-five vehicles were assigned and 60 mechanics were employed in the headquarters repair shop.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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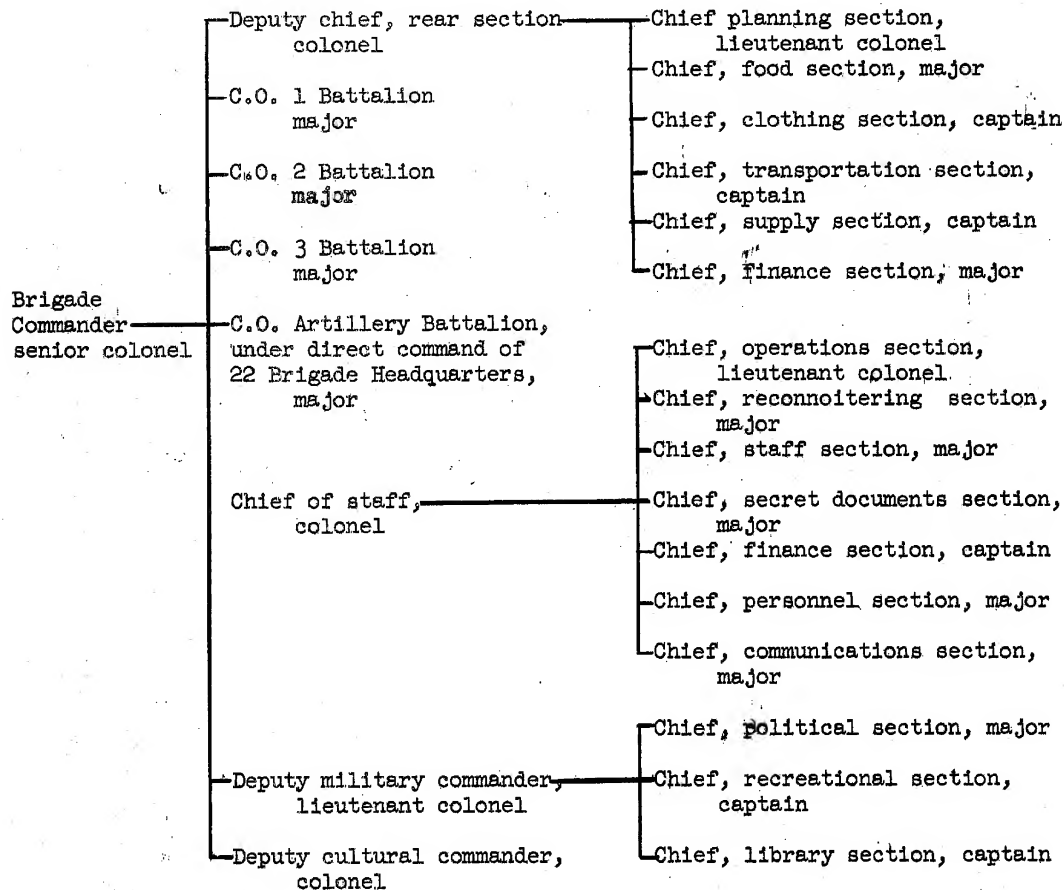
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3. On 1 October 1952 the 22 Brigade, which was stationed in the Tanch'on-up (N 40-27, E 128-54) (DV-9277) area, guarded the coast from Iwon (N 40-20, E 128-36) (DV-6664) to Odaejin (N 41-23, E 129-47) (EA-6581). The 25 Brigade was activated in Tanch'on-gun about mid-June 1952 and completed its move to the Tanch'on-up area about mid-August 1952. Troops were stationed in every village in the area to prevent infiltration of enemy intelligence agents. Artillery pieces were placed along the coast line between Iwon and Odaejin to fire at United Nations boats that came within range. Total strength of the 22 Brigade was 2,900 and each of its four battalions had 690 to 700 men. The artillery battalion had the following equipment: four 12 mm howitzers, four 76 mm guns, six 45 mm flat trajectory guns, and three 76 mm, anti-aircraft guns. Each battalion had a heavy machine-gun company equipped with four machine guns. Each squad was equipped with one Czechoslovakian-made light machine gun, two light sub-machine guns, eight Soviet-made rifles, and two hand grenades per person. Each battalion had five Molotov trucks, five ZIS trucks, and ten Czechoslovakian-made trucks. Each member of the brigade received a daily ration of 600 grams of Vietnam (sic) rice, 200 grams of wheat, 15 grams of soy bean oil, 15 grams of salt, and 100 grams of bean paste. All wore North Korean army winter uniforms.

4. On 1 October 1952 the 22 Brigade was organized as follows:



5. On 18 October 1952 the 22 Brigade was in Tokchu-ri (N 40-32, E 128-54) (DV-9287) in a mountain valley, with its headquarters at DV-92785. About 60 persons were

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at the headquarters, including 35 officers, clerks, and other enlisted men. Approximately 60 members of an artillery company at DV-927860 took turns guarding the area day and night.

6. On 10 August the Security Section of the 22 Brigade had 18 commissioned officers and 15 non-commissioned officers. One commissioned officer was assigned to each battalion of the brigade as security officer and he assigned non-commissioned men to each platoon to act as informants. The informants noted reactionary trends in the platoons and reported the offenses to the security officer. The watchful eyes of the informants examined everyone in the brigade, even the brigade commander. At battalion level and above, security officers acted openly but below battalion level all security action was taken covertly. All security section members made an effort to take preventive action but when a violation was reported to the security section the offender was sent to the People's Court for trial.
7. On 25 November the 22 Brigade Field Post Office [redacted] was in one half of a farmer's house at DV-965862, in a mountain valley near Kaung-ni (N 40-32, E 128-57) (DV-9687). This field post office was set up about June 1952. It was run by a platoon chief, a squad chief, and six couriers armed with PPSH's and Mossin-Nagant rifles. The couriers were divided into three teams of two men each. They took turns picking up the mail for the 22 Brigade from the V Corps Field Post Office at EB-644299 in Ch'ongjin (N 41-47, E 129-49) (EB-6826). The second team left for Ch'ongjin four days after the first one had left and the third team left the same day that the first team returned. They carried PPSH's and rice for a nine-day journey. At times they carried official documents in a pouch, which was 8 x 10 inches when open, with a message written in Chinese on the inside and a large letter "W" superimposed across the message. They also wore a five-inch red armband with a half-inch white stripe running around the band and a white circle with a red letter "W" in the center. The "W" was the recognition mark of the field post office and was used to secure transportation between post offices. The Chinese language message on the pouch explained the courier's mission so that he might secure a ride on trucks driven by Chinese Communist soldiers. Food supplies were procured by the post office members every ten days from the 22 Brigade's fiscal section at Tokchu-ri. 25X1
8. On 22 December 1952 members of the 22 Brigade headquarters held official meetings in the Tokchu-ri people's committee building, a former school house at DV-949858. Officers of the rank of first lieutenant and above attended meetings at irregular intervals to receive and discuss orders from the higher command. Occasionally a meeting was held to punish an officer for a misdemeanor. At this type of meeting a statement of the offense was read with the offender and other officers present. A discussion of the offense by all present followed. These meetings sometimes lasted as long as five hours. The enlisted men of each company were called to a meeting once a month or more often if necessary. These meetings were opened with a pep talk by the deputy chief of the Democratic Youth League, followed by the singing of a patriotic song. Then a report was read on an outstanding achievement of some group or soldier of the 22 Brigade. All those present discussed the good and bad points of the achievement and made suggestions as to correcting the errors. Following this discussion, the political deputy chief led a discussion on company problems such as messing, billeting, and injustices. The meetings were closed with a talk by the company commander on what was expected of the company during the following month and the singing of another patriotic song. The men usually left these meetings in good spirits.
9. On 15 October 1952 the daily rice ration of members of the 25 Brigade (also known as the 507 Army Unit) was 800 grams per person. Each member also received salt, bean oil, bean paste, and soy beans. Ten grams of tobacco were issued to each soldier daily. Ten grams of meat were issued to every man once a month. Monthly salaries

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were as follows: private, 100 won; corporal, 200 won; sergeant, 300 won; first sergeant, 600 won. Once a week officers gave lectures to the men of their units on military regulations and politics. Occasionally books were distributed. By mid-October winter clothing had been issued to all personnel.

10. In October 1952 a service section directly under the 25 Brigade was activated. All people living south of the Yongmi-ri (N 39-22, E 127-33) (CU-7558) area were ordered to move inland. Soldiers above the age of thirty in poor health or with farming experience were selected from each battalion of the 25 Brigade to cultivate the farm land in that area to provide supplemental food for the troops of the 25 Brigade. Three platoons of approximately 63 men each were formed. The commanding officer of this service section was Captain HAN Yong-ho, 25X1

1. Comment. [redacted] the V Corps headquarters and its subordinate units continued to be in the Hamhung (N 39-54, E 127-32) (CV-7517)-Yonghung (N 39-33, E 127-14) (CU-4879) area, where they were currently accepted. Personnel of the V Corps south of this area were [redacted] replacements destined for assignment to frontline units or elements of reconnaissance units en route to the forward areas. 25X1
2. Comment. The North Korean army V Corps was to replace the North Korean army III Corps on 15 September 1952. 25X1
3. Comment. [redacted] at the beginning of November 1952 the V Corps headquarters had moved to Koagae-dong (N 39-39, E 126-59) (CU-2790), leaving a part of its medical center at CU-384843, former headquarters location near Yong-gol (N 39-36, E 127-07). 25X1

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